SIGHS for SION,

Ex Lib. OR, Colmi Mis Mes

FAITH and LOVE

Containing some grievings in her Sorrow, and groanings for her Deliverance:

By a few of her weak and unworthy Children.

Humbly, and in all faithfulness, presented to those Assemblies of hers, where Grace hath set them as Watchmen; and unto any others, that in every place call upon the Name of JESUS CHRIST our Lord, both theirs and ours.

In way of ESSAY,

To blow the Trumpet in Sion, and sound an Alarm in Gods holy Mountain,
To the awakening them that are at ease, and pressing and encouraging all the upright in heart, to be in pain with her, in this day of her sore travel, and great Expectation.

K. Chear (A.) & others

PSAL. 137. 1. —*We wept, when we remembred Sion.*

ISA. 62. 6, 7. *I have set Watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give him no rest, till he establish, till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

LAM. 2. 18, 19. *Their heart cryed unto the Lord: O wall of the daughter of Sion, let tears run down like a river night and day, give thy self no rest, let not the apple of thine eyes cease; arise, cry out in the night, in the beginning of the watches pour out thy heart like water before the face of the Lord,* &c.

MIC. 4. 10. *Be in pain and labour to bring forth, O daughter of Sion, like a woman in travel.*

ISA. 96. 8 —*As soon as Sion traveled, she brought forth her Children.*

LONDON,
Printed for *Livewel Chapman* at the Crown in Popes head alley. 1657.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the ſeveral Congregations reſpectively, to which we ſtand eſpecially related; *viz.*

In { *Plymouth*, *Abingdon*, *Totneſs*, } { *Bovhey-Tracy*, and *Dartmouth*.

Dearly Beloved,

WE *know, and acknowledge our ſelves to be debtors (yea, we owe our own ſelves) to the Lord, and you, for the exceeding grace that we (though moſt unworthy) have found in his ſight, counting us faithful, and putting us into the Miniſtry of his Goſpel; and for that our ſervice amongſt you hath been, and is in any meaſure accepted. Under the ſenſe of which engagement, it is the leaſt we can do, to be ready to render an account of our ſelves from time to time unto you; the which we the more chearfully now undertake, as being under the perſwaſion of a Call of the Lord, leading us forth thereunto, and having good hopes, through grace, that our labour ſhall not be in vain in him; in and through whom we are,*

Yours, faithfully labouring (though in much weakneſs) for your Souls proſperity, as thoſe whoſe joy and rejoycing, both here, and in the day of Chriſt, waits to be fulfilled therein.

{ *Abraham Cheare*, *Henry Forty*, } { *John Pendarves*, *Tho: Glaſſe*, *Robert Steede*. }

Sighs for Sion, &c.

THE GREAT GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, who hath GRAVEN you, OYE PRECIOUS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF SION, on the Palms of his hands, hath alſo greatly indeared you to our hearts; inſomuch as we may ſay with the Apoſtle, *Ye are in our hearts* (in the Lord) *to live and dye with you*: yea, we truſt our inward affection is more abundantly toward you, then our viſible expreſſion in the enſuing lines: whereof at preſent we find no better Teſtimony wherewith to preſent you, then that which is here tendred to your view: Your candid acceptance of ſo poor a mite, with a favourable conſtruction, and a due improvement of this Word in ſeaſon, to the Glory of God our Father, and the comfort of you his dear Children, will be that wherein our Deſires and Ends will be anſwered, and our Souls encouraged in the Work of God, and your Work; with reſolution in the power of God to hold on therein, *paſsing by evil and good report*, yea, and gladly to ſpend and be ſpent for Chriſts ſake, and for your ſakes, who are Chriſts.

But here we muſt begin with judging our ſelves, and covering our faces with deſerved ſhame, that we who have ſtood forth ſo long to miniſter the Word among the Saints, and to make mention of the Work of God; and

and have yet had ſo little ſearchings of heart in the matter that is now before us; have known and felt ſo little, not onely of the power, but even of the form of this bleſſed Work, ſo as either to ſtir up and engage our own hearts, or to provoke the Churches of the Saints unto their concernments of this nature: But have rather eaſed and pleaſed our ſelves and others, in diſcourſing of, and proſecuting ſome other things, though good in themſelves, and in their places, yet ſuch as wherein our private intereſt of Peace and Comfort is more ſenſibly wrapt up; in the mean time falling ſhort of (at leaſt not ſo ſelf-denyingly reaching after) the advancement of that Name, Intereſt, and Glory of God, that ſhould be upon our hearts, to have made manifeſt in all the earth, *from the riſing of the Sun, and from the Weſt.* Iſa. 59. 19.

And as we cannot but be ſenſible of the narrowneſs of our own ſpirits, with grief, and ſhame; ſo alſo, as that which is weighty on us, we do obſerve, That a ſelf-ſeeking and ſelf-pleaſing Spirit, hath taken great hold of, and advantage on many Profeſſors in theſe days; witneſs their little naturally-caring for *Sions* ſtate, moſt ſeeking their own things, and ſo few ſeeking the things of Jeſus Chriſt, and of their Brethren, for edification. And Oh! that there were not among you, even among you, who are the Churches of Chriſt, cauſe of complaint in this reſpect. 2 Chron. 28. 10. Theſe things we mention, not to caſt reproch upon you, but with grieved hearts, God knoweth. And now, that we might diſcharge, and have the anſwer of a good conſcience, in following the Lord fully, we have taken the oportunity of this Work, that we truſt himſelf hath been fixing on our Spirits, after ſeeking to God, and waiting

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ing upon his Majesty, To beseech and provoke you, and every one of you, as you have any fellowship with Christ our Head, by faith, or in and with his body, the Church of the first-born, by love, you would for his, and his *Sions* sake, hear, and receive our exhortations, considering with weighty Spirits what we say: and the Lord give you understanding in all things.

Jer.30.17. The Cause then that we desire with trembling to plead, (Brethren) is *Sions*, even hers, whom men have called an out-cast, saying, This is *Sion*, whom no man seeketh after; and of whom that ancient Lamentation may in a great measure be taken up, as verified in this Isa.51.18. our day, *There is none to guide her among all the Sons whom she hath brought forth, neither is there any that taketh her by the hand, of all the Sons that she hath brought up; among all* Lam.1.2. *lovers she hath none to comfort her*, &c. and her Professed friends, (many of them) have dealt treacherously with her, and are become her enemies.

Dear Souls! our request on her behalf is, that you Isa.33.20. would look upon *Sion*, that *City of our Solemnities*, of Psal.87.3. & 50.2. & 48.2. whom *glorious things are spoken*, and layed up in Promise for her, even to the rendring her the *Perfection of* Isa.60.15. *Beauty, An eternal Excellency, The joy of many generations.* And Oh! that your hearts may be so sutably affected with an holy sympathy in her state, through that one Spirit that is in Promise for all her children, that you may truly say, as Souls whom faith and love have Psal.78.7. transported into her interest, *all my springs are in thee.*

But lest we be mistaken in your thoughts, while we speak of her in that figurative term; and to the end our apprehension may be distinct and clear, in our wrestlings together on her behalf, we pray you to consider what we intend and minde in the expression [*Sion.*]

First,

First, *SION* considered in a more large sense, takes in the whole Election of God, *whose names are written in Heaven*, that whole body for which Christ gave himself, and whereof Christ is given to be Head; not only those who have believed, but those also who shall believe, for whom, as Christ hath prayed, *That they all may be one*, as the Father is in him, and he in the Father, that they may be one in them, that the world may believe that the Father hath sent him: so ought we to strive mightily with God, and them, travelling in birth for them, till Christ be formed in them all; enduring also all things for their sakes, *that they also may obtain the Salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal Glory.*

Heb. 12. 22, 23. Joh. 10. 16. 2 Tim. 2. 19 Joh. 17. 20, 21. Col. 1. 29. Gal. 4. 19. 2 Tim. 2. 10.

But secondly, by *Sion*, we here intend more especially and particularly, Gods called and faithful people, *Jews and Gentiles, fellow-Citizens* in Christ, even *the whole Israel of God*, as considered or concerned in a controversie with *Babylon*, stated in the Scriptures; taking in, as well those of that blessed family, who are now in heaven, for the avenging of whose boold we ought without fainting to cry day and night, as the peculiar people of God upon the face of the whole earth; even *all that in every place call upon the Name of the Lord out of a pure heart*: in whom the glory of God is more highly concerned, then in all things else in the world, not onely in his pleading thorowly their cause in all the controversies of *Sion* with her Adversaries, but also in beautifying her with his glorious Presence, and restoring her to her primitive Glory, in respect of a pure *GOSPEL-FAITH, UNION*, and *ORDER*; wherein being found as a blessed *BRIDE*, prepared for the coming of the glorious *BRIDEGROOM*, she may be counted

Eph. 2. 19. & 3. 15. Gal. 6. 16. Isa. 34. 8. Luke 18. 7, 8. Rev. 18. 20, 24. Psal. 73. 1. Rom. 10. 12. Jer. 50. 34.

ted worthy of all that glory that ſhall be brought unto her, at the ſecond *appearing of Jeſus Chriſt*, *NOW DRAWING NIGH.*

This bleſſed People, this *SION*, *Gods* glorious *Building*, and *Workmanſhip in Chriſt*, the true *ſeed of Abraham*, and *Heires of the Promiſe*, both *Jews and Gentiles*; however in the Iſſue they ſhall be a *Name*, *and Praiſe to him in all the Earth*: And although this great Work in and for them, be ſtill before him; yet is it the wiſdom and good pleaſure of the Father, in the depths of his Everlaſting Counſel, to let the manifeſtation of it in the world, and his diſpenſations about it, be very various, and ſeemingly to carnal eyes, unſuitable to ſuch intendments, through the many deaths, diſtreſſes, and unlikelyhoods, with which he cloatheth it in their ſight: the which he turneth nevertheleſs to the exceeding advantage of his Name all along, not only by exerciſing thorowly the Patience, Obedience, and faithfulneſs of his Children, in owning the truth of his Teſtimony, and bearing their Teſtimony for him unto the death; but withal, by giving full occaſion, and opportunity, for that *MYSTERY OF GOD* to be *finiſhed*, who hath Teſtified, and declared by the Spirit of Propheſie to the Churches, and permitteth by an hand of Providence, the riſing, and raging of *That man of Sin*, that *Bloody Myſtery of Iniquity*, until it have anſwered and fulfilled whatſoever is held forth of it, in all the various Scripture-Propheſies, figures, and repreſentations both of its Civil and Eccleſiaſtical concernment. The which, as it hath gotten to its heighth both of Renown and Crueltie, by the occaſion of that exceeding great offence, wherewith the cauſe of Chriſt hath been preſented in its appearance to the world, being a *ſtumbling*

Iſa. 49. 14, 15, 16

Mic. 4. 11, 12.

Rev. 13. 10. & 14. 12.

bling ſtone to the children of this worlds wiſdom and glory: ſo ſhall its ruine ariſe from that Jealouſie of the Lord wherein he hath promiſed to plead the cauſe of his own, and his peoples glory; finding in, and recompenſing on that generation, on whom the hour of his wrath ſhall fall, *all that righteous blood that hath been ſhed*, and all that unworthy & treacherous uſage that *SION* hath met withal in the days of her poverty & diſtreſs.

The day of *SIONS FULL DELIVERANCE*, the deſtruction of her enemies, & the ſetting up of *CHRISTS GLORIOUS KINGDOM*, is very much upon his heart, *Iſa.* 63. 4. as a fruit of the ſore *Travel of his Soul*, Iſa. 53. 11, 12. and recompence of that unworthy uſage that himſelf, his cauſe and people have had upon the earth; and for which, ſitting at the right-hand of God, he is in continual expectation, *Heb.* 10. 13. as that which muſt be given him as a fruit of his interceſſion, *Pſal.* 2. 8, 9. and to which he is preparing his way, *by terrible things in righteouſneſs*, Pſal. 65. 5, 8. *ſhaking both Heaven and Earth*, and making a Quick diſpatch, *Luk.* 18. 7, 8. ordering, & ruling all things therein, and making them ſubject to this his great & glorious work. And indeed, ſo much the more is this Deſign and Work declared to be upon his heart, as the whole management of it will lie upon his own ſhoulders; they being very few among men, that will be found to have regard to it, in the building of it; not onely through the blindneſs and enmity of thoſe that are aliens from him, but the very great ſleep & ſlumber that will be found among them that pretend to him, either through their want of faith, *Luk.* 18. 8. or their ſenſual engagements in this preſent evil world, Chap. 17. 26, *&c.* So that notwithſtanding that Salvation he works for them, and his pleading

Iſa. 49. 7. & 61. 3, 7.

Iſa. 9. 7. Pſal. 17. 2. 17.

their cauſe, lays them under no ſmall engagement to him; when his cauſe comes to be pleaded, the complaint is made by the Prophet, *Iſa.* 59 16. *And he ſaw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no interceſſor. Therefore his arm brought Salvation unto him.* The which great defection even of Saints themſelves, from *FOLLOWING THE LAMB*, in this ſpecial ſervice, together with the fixation of the work upon the heart of Chriſt notwitſtanding this, ſerveth highly now, more then ever, the day drawing neerer, to commend, and greatly to encourage and excite the faithfulneſs of any, though the weakeſt and moſt deſpiſed of the Lords holy ones, who are in a right ſpirit engag'd for, and together with Chriſt, in their conſtant waitings, and fervent expectations of this manifeſtation of his glory: they hereby witneſſing that they have the mind of Chriſt; and having one mind, give their power and ſtrength to the Lamb, as *CALLED*, and *CHOSEN*, and *FAITHFUL*, (when others have one minde to give theirs to the Beaſt) making prayers alſo *for him continually*, & preferring him and his intereſt before their chief joy, through the ſpirit of faith and love; always reckoning themſelves as being in the body, and members in particular.

1 Cor. 2. 16. Rev. 17. 13, 14. Pſal. 72. 15. & 137. 6. Heb. 13. 3. 1 Cor. 12. 27.

A taſte of this worthy Spirit (Brethren, beloved in the Lord) we humbly truſt our God is giving us, who addreſs our ſelves to you, with ſome fervent deſires that we may be made more to partake of it. And indeed, ſuch is our love to your Souls, and delight (through grace) in this work before us, that we cannot but commend it to you, with more then an ordinary importunity; beſeeching you, and every one of you, from the greateſt to the leaſt, notwithſtanding divers differ-

differences among you, touching the time, way and manner of Gods effecting those great things, that by the will, and in the way of the Lord, you be found reaching after the same Spirit, and wrestling much together and apart for it. And Oh! that it may be the pleasure of the Lord herein, that your zeal may provoke many, and you may be found to have stood in this *hour of Temptation*, & this *BACK-SLIDING TIME*, *faithful with the Lamb on the Mount Sion*, having not onely *His Fathers Name written on your Foreheads*, but his work graven upon your hearts, and all those blessed Characters disposing you thereunto, shining in all your conversations; which will make you covet, that the Lord make his Work appear to you as his servants, though he reserve the revelation of his glory unto your children. For what greater joy, or crown of rejoycing, can we have at the appearing of the Lord, then that we with you, and yee with us, be presented *faultless before his Throne? whereunto we also labour, and desire to strive mightyly, according to his working*. In which work, and to which end, we pray you bear with us, while we follow this Exhortation a little further in a few words.

2 Cor. 9. 2. Rev. 14. 1. Psa. 84. 5, 6, 7. Psa. 90. 16. Jud. 24. Col. 1. 28.

Is not the exercise of such a *PUBLICK SPIRIT* for the *whole Work* of the Lord most desirable? if we consider farther, not onely its sweet likeness unto, and fellowship with the heart of Christ; but withal, that very great Blessing that hath been promised, and all ages they have found to their particular souls, who have been given up to mind most naturally, and follow most fully, that design of God, that had its present tendency in that very age to promote *Sion*: the Lord is not unrighteous to forget such work, & labor of love, that is shewed towards his name. How hath that word been

Isa. 66. 10. Zeph. 3. 18. Heb. 9. 13.

Psa.122.6. made good to them that pray for her Peace, *They shall PROSPER that love thee?* And see, we pray you (dear Brethren) how God hath bid his choice remnant to consider, and reckon from that very day, wherein they set their hearts and hands about the Work of *Sion*, *from this day will I bless you*, Hag.2.18,19. what choice Testimonies of the great love of God to himself, did *Daniel* finde at several times! (He is said to be *a man greatly beloved*, or a man of desires, *Dan.9.23.& 10.11,19.*) when he was wrestling for the *NAME* and Work of God singly, not minding a word of his own interest (that we reade of) farther then it was wrapt up in the Lords? besides the great secrets that were open to him, of the deep designes of God for a great while to come. What

1Chro.28. a desirable foresight had *David* given him by the Spirit,

12,19.&c. in all the patern of the house of the Lord, and large furnishments thereunto? yea, what provision, to his

2Sam.7. beg. astonishment, did God make for building him an house, and establishing his Kingdom, when in the time

1Chro.6. 33. of his rest he was taking care of that house of Gods glory, because of which all the people of the earth might know his name?

Neh.5.19. & 6.9.& 13.14.& 22,31. What a constant observation was *Nehemiah* enabled to take of the hand of God for good upon him, *Neh.2.* 8,18. and what boldness, and clearness of access, and appeal to the Lord, was he still furnished withall, whiles he was in the fear of God, (Chap.5.9,15.) about the work of *Sion*?

Ezra.5.5. & 7.6.& 9.8.& 8. 18.& 22, 31. Was not *Ezra's* experience much of the eye and hand of the Lord accompanying him, in all that great work he did for the Lord his God?

Psa.102. 17.18. Moreover, it deserves our serious observations, being *written for generations to come*, how much the Lord is delight-

lighted in the faithful fervent prayers of those who have sought him, in behalf of *the People called by his Name*; in that he hath carefully preserved the memorial of them, causing them to be expresly recorded in his book; as appears in *Nehem.* 1. and *Dan.* 9. all which, with many others that might be named, are ensamples unto us, that we by their patern might be stirred up to *serve our generation*, with faithful spirits, *by the will of God*. Act. 13. 36.

To which also we might adde, the remembrance of the Curse on them that hate *Sion*; yea, the apparent withering and blasting that hath been, and is on them, that in following their private interests, neglect her, and defer her work, under this pretence, *The time is not yet come, the time that the Lords house should be built*; whilest in the mean time they prefer their relations, possessions, and other worldly accommodations, before this dear interest of Jesus Christ: for which, that Judgement in a spiritual sense is come upon some, and may justly be feared as coming on others, *Hag* 1. 10, 11. The heavens over them are stayed from dew, *&c.* Yea, and hath not God punished this neglect in many, with such a decrease of their spiritual moisture, as that word is made good in them, *Psal.* 137. 6. Their tongues even cleave to the roofs of their mouths; whilest others, faithful in improving their received measure of a Spirit of Faith and Prayer, are abundantly encreased therein. Oh! what dreadful Woes are pronounced to them that find their pleasure in such a season, *but regard not the work of the Lord, nor consider the operation of his hands; that are at ease in Sion, but are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph; Careless daughters*, that lay not to heart the perishing of the righteous, and consider not the taking away of the Merciful men; with whom the Lord will plead, as with them Psa. 129. 5. Hag. 1. 2, 10, 11. Isa. 5. 11. 12. & 22. 12, 13, 14. Amos 6. 1, to 6. Isa. 32. 9, 11. & 57. 1, 4.

them that sport themselves against him: the desire of such slothful ones will kill them, *Prov.* 21. 25. and their prosperity destroy them, *Prov.* 1. 32.

Isa. 58. 1. Joel 2. 1, 15. And now, Brethren, is it not high time, that we cry aloud, and spare not; lift up our voice like a Trumpet, when it is too too evident, that in the day of a little ease wherein for a little space grace hath been given us from the Lord our God, even a little reviving in our bondage, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, men are sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber in every corner, saying, It is not nigh; let us build houses? *&c.* And is not Pride, and fulness of bread companions to this abundant *idlenss*, through which *the building decayeth?* Oh that at length, for the Lords sake, we might be provoked to *be fervent in Spirit, serving the Lord; and that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now ours*, and Sions *Salvation*, *is neerer then when we believed.*

Ezra 9. 8, 9.

Ezek. 16. 49. Prov. 18. 9.

Rom. 12. 11. & 13. 11.

For the Quickning of our hearts to this work, and the heightning of our expectations therein, hath not the Lord given us, among many other, this remarkable signe of the times, even a mighty spirit of faith and prayer, through some choice discoveries of grace raised up in his people? by the exercise of which, in the management of *SIONS CONTROVERSIE*, great and glorious *WONDERS* have been wrought in these Nations, by unlikely meanes, in answer to the prayers of the Saints; as hath been openly confest by the instruments imployed, which have caused themselves, and others, beholders, to stand amazed thereat: and although many *who* once *seemed to be pillars* in this Cause, have soon forget these great works, & have turned back from *following fully* after God in this way; yet there is a *REMNANT*, a generation

ration that remain upon their *WATCH-TOWER*, with whom the hand of the Lord reſts wonderfully, upholding their faith and hope for *Sion*, notwithſtanding all diſcouragements, in their unceſſant prayers for her. Hath God ſaid to his at any time, *Seek ye me in vain?* Iſa.45.19. hath not God by evident anſwers of prayers in theſe dayes, ſealed it in a good meaſure to his people, *that the time to favour her, yea the ſet-time* is come? for he hath regarded the prayer of the poor deſtitute, and hath not deſpiſed their prayer: and is not this written for our ſakes? ſee *Pſa.*102.17, 18. God who beautifieth his mercies to his people, by giving them in their due ſeaſon, having in theſe latter dayes given forth this glorious bleſſing of a Spirit of grace and ſupplication ſo abundantly, and continuing the ſame, hath he not ſome great work to be further carried on thereby?

Oh! that we could preſent unto you, in a lively way, what our ſouls have begun to taſte of thoſe firſt ripe fruits, of that ariſing and growing Spirit, that grace hath in a meaſure viſited ſome Saints withal, that have joyntly and ſeverally deſired to be found faithful for the Lord: they have to our abundant refreſhing witneſſed that their *labour is not in vain in the Lord*; *nay, in keeping ſuch Commandments there is great reward*: whilſt they have felt (though as yet it be but a little of) *Sions* pangs upon their hearts, they have been ſtrongly carried up into the ſpirit of that day, and their ſouls ſouls were made as the *Chariots of Aminadab*: which declareth clearly to us, that were we but put into perfect travel in our ſpirits, did we take *Pleaſure* indeed *in her ſtones*, and *favour the duſt thereof*, it would turn to us for a further Teſtimony, that the time of God's ariſing to ſhew mercy to *Sion*, the time to favour her, yea the ſet time were come. Cant.6. 12. Iſa.66.8. Pſa.102. 13,14.

But

But alas for us! we have not onely sought our ease
Hos.13.13. when pain should have been upon us, but as foolish
Children have *stayed long in the place of the breaking forth*
Jer.5.25. *of Children*, and by the iniquities that we have contracted since we were named *Sions* Children, we have kept back good things from her: what remaineth now, but that we lay her state so much the more deeply to heart, as we have drawn grief upon her, and added to her deformity? being earnest in a *SPIRIT* of faith and prayer *NIGHT AND DAY* in her behalf, as becometh Children nursed at her side, sutably affected,
Esth.4.13, and acted with and for her: not expecting our own de-
14. liverance, any other way then in hers; knowing that we
Heb.11. 40. without her cannot be made perfect.

Luke 18.1. And that we may hold on our way without fainting, & not be in our mournings as men without hope; would it not prove of great advantage, to the raising and keeping up our Faith, to be much exercised and delighted in the prospect that is to be had, through the promises, in-
Lam.4.8. to her (ready to be revealed) glory? However, *her visage*
Isa.24.16. *is now blacker then a cole; she is not known in the streets: trea-*
&59.9,11. *cherous dealers have dealt very treacherously* with her; a dis-
&c. appointment hath befaln many of her hopeful expectations, because her transgressions are many: reproch hath befallen her at the hands of Professors; and the enemies that know not the Lord, blaspheme. The light and Spirit of the Lord is belyed and abused by vain men, unsound in the faith, *disobedient* to, and *despisers* of *the precious Ordinances* of *Jesus Christ*; through which also, *loss of children* hath here and there betided her *Assemblies*. Yet hath *JEHOVAH* spoken it, & his faithfulness is engaged in an *everlasting Covenant*, that though she hath *been forsaken and hated, that no man went thorow her*, yet he

will

will make her *an eternal excellency, a Joy of many generati-* Isa. 60.14,
ons, the City of the Lord; the Sion of the Holy one of Israel 15.
shall she be called; in nothing more glorious, then in the Zech. 2.
perpetual presence of her *KING*, and *GOD* with her, *who* 10.
shall Tabernacle with men, and *dwell with them*, *they* being *his* Ezek. 37.
people, and *he himself shall be with them, and be their God*; be 27, 28, 29.
ing in stead of a *Temple*, *Sun*, and *Moon*; *the glory of God* Rev. 21. 3,
and the Lamb alwayes lightning her, the Lord being her 21, 22, 23.
everlasting light, and her *God* her *glory*. —— How amia- Isa. 60. 19,
ble in the day of her deliverance shall *Sion* be, through 20.
the bringing to her glory that ancient people, the Family of *Abraham*, Gods *friend*, *when they shall see him whom* Zech. 12.
they have pierced, and mourn for him, and be saved by him 10.
in that *great day of Jezreel*, the Lord uniting *Ephraim* and Hos. 1. 11.
Judah, making them very great, holy, and *a blessing* Isa. 11. 23.
round about? Ezek. 34. 26. *And what shall the receiving of* Jer. 3. 18.
them be but life from the dead? Rom. 11 15. and when the glory of the Lord shall be risen upon her, then shall the Gentiles come unto her light, and Kings to the brightness of her rising, *Isa.* 60 1, 3. *Yea, from the rising of the* Mal. 1. 11.
sun, unto the going down of the same, shall the Name of the Lord be great among the Gentiles; *all Nations* flowing unto the *Mountain of the Lord*, when it shall be advanced to the tops of the Mountains and exalted above the hills: yea, Isa. 2. 2.
what glorious things are said of this city of God? There shall be births in *Rahab, and Babylon, Philistia, Ethiopia, and Tyre*; and yet when God shall count up the people, he shall say of *Sion*, *This and that man was born in her, and the highest himself shall establish her*, Ps. 87. 4, 5. *the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this*. And Oh! that all the Lords people were so fully *prepared* as a *Bride*, to meet their blessed *Bridegroom*; that we might all unfeinedly say with one accord, *Even so come Lord Jesus, come quickly*. Rev. 22.
20.

Had we but truly-Noble Spirits, how would these discoveries of glory ravish us, and our eye affect our heart? setting us with restless spirits, to be *looking for & hasting unto*, that *day* of the Lord; this day of the manifest exalting *JESUS*, as *KING OF SAINTS* and *KING OF NATIONS*? Nay, would it not fill our hearts with jealousie for his Name, against all that standeth up in the earth, to oppose his *Kingdom* and glory, beginning at home in our own spirits? the zeal of the Lords house would eat us up, and the love of it would crucifie us more unto, and wean us from those interests of earth, and men, whereupon we have been apt to lean, and whereunto we have been deeply and dangerously engaged: causing us also to wait to be with Jesus, which is best of all; and in the mean time to pant, and thirst unceassantly for that *holy Spirit of Promise*, that alone can present us with the ravishing glory of that expected day, and raise up our spirits to a sweet and sutable disposition, according to the will of God, to wait and act aright toward it.

2 Pet. 3. 12. Isa. 33. 18. Rev. 15. 3, 4. Psal. 69. 9.

Dear hearts, let your faith be high, and your wrestlings without wearines; neither be ye in any measure discouraged, nor discouraging one another: in this matter the strong cannot say to the weak, *I have no need of thee*; should not all our interest in heaven be improved to the uttermost, in this day of *Jacobs trouble*? *Oh strengthen the weak hands, & confirm the feeble knees*, Isa. 35. 3. *Provoke one another to* this *love, and* these *good works*; say to one another, *Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts; I will go also.* And ye, *O poor of the flock*, that wait upon the Lord, and know this is *the word of the Lord*; *be strong*, yea, *be strong and of good courage*; knowing, that in this Work of Gods Tabernacle, he receiveth

Numb. 6. 32, 7. 2 Cor. 12. 21. Heb. 10. 24. Zech. 8. 21. Zech. 11. 11.

in

in good part your ſincere, though weak, breathings; your *Badgers-skins, and Goats-hair, is in no wiſe caſt out. Ye that are of a fearful heart, be ſtrong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and ſave you,* Iſa. 35 4. *What ſhall one then anſwer the Meſſengers of the Nations? That the Lord hath founded Sion, & the poor of his people ſhall betake themſelves to it,* Iſa. 14 32. Exod. 35. 21, 23.

And ye alſo, beloved and honoured Brethren, who miniſter the Word of Grace among the Saints, How comely will your goings be, as he-goats before the flocks, in this Work? Have you not the Prophets of old, who have ſpoken in the Name of the Lord, for an example; whoſe words accompanied with the ſame ſpirit of Faith, will they not furniſh to this Work? In reading their writings, conſider their work in ſuch a time as this, (Profeſſors then being in ſuch a poſture of ſecurity as now) was it not to warn them (with a woe unto them) who were at eaſe in *Sion,* Amos 6. 1, 3, 4, *&c.* and ſuch as regarded not the work of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands? *Iſa.* 5. which duty had they neglected, would not God have requir'd it at their hands? Did they not call upon *the people* to *aſſemble* together, to *faſt* and *pray,* to *mourn* and *weep* before the Lord, to plead the cauſe of his *people,* his *heritage?* Joel 2. 15, 16, 17. Thus did they, whoſe example is laid before you, as *wiſe Stewards,* giving to thoſe of the *houſhold a portion,* ſutable to the preſent *ſeaſon.* Should we not reſemble them in this, crying out with the *Watchman upon Mount Ephraim,* Jer. 31. 6. *Ariſe ye, and let us go up to Sion, unto the Lord our God;* withall, waiting daily on God for ſuch a diſcerning of the *Times,* as might render us like the *Children of Iſſachar,* who knew what *Iſrael ought to do?* 1 Chro. 12. 32. If this rude Eſſay, or ſmall tinkling (as it may be judged) may

may provoke you, who are more skilful, to *blow the Trumpet*, and the Lord ſpirit you thereunto, do it, we pray you, as for his, and his peoples ſake, with all your might; not ſparing to lay out your more worthy Labours, for the carrying on of this Work. Bear with us, yet a little in our humble importunity; Is not the *glorious Name* of God, *the peace of Jeruſalem*, and its proſperity, the proſperity of your own ſouls alſo, and the people to whom you relate, who may be diſcouraged by your remiſsneſs, eminently concerned in this matter? Yet once more we beſeech you therefore *in the bowels of Chriſt*, let not any worldly intereſt, prejudice, jealouſie fear of ill events, or any carnal reaſoning whatſoever, withhold your hearts or hands from helping in ſo good and glorious a Work.

What ſhall we ſay more, dearly beloved? *if there be any conſolation in Chriſt, if any comfort of love, if any fellowſhip of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye our joy, in being of one accord, and one minde*, in this weighty Work commended unto you; wherein the *NAME AND GLORY OF GOD* (which ought to be dearer to us then our lives) is ſo eminently concerned. And withall, adde to your diligence, in looking into the concernments of *Chriſt*, and his *Saints*, that having *arrived unto a diſtinct* knowledge of them, your hearts being duly affected with them, you may go on proſperouſly, not only to ſpread before the Lord, both his, and his peoples *Cauſe*, as the matter ſhall require; but alſo *wait for the return of prayer*; diſcerning this in your ſelves, That they beſt know how good God is to them that ſeek him, that after ſeeking, *wait for him*, Lam. 3.25,26. Having been thus bold with you for *Sion*, we humbly crave for our ſelves, That we may be had in ſpecial remembrance on your hearts before the Lord, that we may be fitted for, and faithful in the work of our Dear *REDEEMER*: Into whoſe embraces we give you up, and remain,

1 King. 8. 59.

Your poor unworthy Brethren, through rich Grace firmly knit unto you, in the bonds of Goſpel-love; and one with you in your ſpiritual warfare, and waiting for the exaltation of Jeſus Chriſt.

Abr. Chear, Henry Forty, John Pendarves, Tho. Glaſſe, Robert Steede.

FINIS.